

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1308

Introduced by Assembly Member Bonilla

February 22, 2013

An act relating to professions and vocations.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AB 1308, as introduced, Bonilla. Midwifery.

Existing law, the Licensed Midwifery Practice Act of 1993, provides for the licensing and regulation of midwives by the Board of Licensing of the Medical Board of California. The license to practice midwifery authorizes the holder, under the supervision of a licensed physician and surgeon, as specified, to attend cases of normal childbirth and to provide prenatal, intrapartum, and postpartum care, including family-planning care, for the mother, and immediate care for the newborn. A violation of the act is a crime.

This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to remove barriers to care in order to provide a more efficient and safer delivery method for mother and infant by allowing licensed midwives to practice in a manner originally intended in prior legislation.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares the
- 2 following:
- 3 (1) Licensed midwives have been authorized to practice since
- 4 1993 under Senate Bill 350 (Chapter 1280 of the Statutes of 1993),

1 which was authored by Senator Killea. Additional legislation,
2 Senate Bill 1950 (Chapter 1085 of the Statutes of 2002), which
3 was authored by Senator Figueroa, was needed in 2002 to clarify
4 certain practice issues. While the midwifery license does not
5 specify or limit the practice setting in which licensed midwives
6 may provide care, the reality is that the majority of births delivered
7 by licensed midwives are planned as home births.

8 (2) Planned home births are safer when care is provided as part
9 of an integrated delivery model. For a variety of reasons, this
10 integration rarely occurs, and creates a barrier to the best and safest
11 care possible. This is due, in part, to the attempt to fit a midwifery
12 model of care into a medical model of care.

13 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that
14 would systematically remove unnecessary barriers to care in order
15 to provide a more efficient and safer delivery for mother and infant
16 by allowing licensed midwives to practice in a manner originally
17 intended in the authorizing legislation.